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MEDICAL SCHOOL

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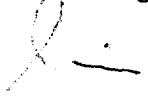
Dr. Walter Bodmer
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Walter:

I am writing concerning a matter which Josh may have already mentioned to you. As you know, the two of us are serving on a panel of the NAS concerned with "Biology and the Future of Man." As you may also know, amongst the various charges of this panel has been to look at some of Dr. Shockley's recent statements. Finally, what you may not know is that the National Academy is holding its Autumn, 1967, meetings here on this campus, October 23-25. As a member of the planning committee, I have been given the responsibility of developing one of the four symposia. After some thought, it appears that we might serve a useful purpose by sponsoring a symposium under the general title: "Genetic Implications of Demographic Trends: What do we Know?" As currently visualized, there will be an opening paper which Jim Crow has agreed to give, on "Gene Pools and Rates of Genetic Change Under Selection." The next paper will deal with "Patterns of Survival and Reproduction in the United States - Past, Present and Future," which Dudley Kirk has just agreed to give. I propose to give the third paper myself, "The Demography of Primitive Man," hoping to bring out the striking demographic differences between primitive and civilized man, against the background of which socioeconomic or educational differentials as they now exist are rather small. Next would follow a very difficult paper on "Some Possible Genetic Consequences of U. S. Differential Fertility." This has to be done in the right way by the right person; I just approached Dr. Curt Stern on this. Finally, we have in mind a paper on the topic: "Can Census and Related Data be Adapted to the Detection of Genetic Trends?" There is no one who has recently given this matter more thought than yourself and who could give a better presentation.

As you are aware, this general topic is a much roasted chestnut, and I wouldn't propose to undertake it were it not that I think we can put it in a better light today than ever before. I would anticipate that the symposium would be published in the Proceedings of the National Academy; this might be a rather useful set of "position papers," referred to by a variety of sources. Accordingly, I do hope that you can see your way clear to working up that last topic. I would much rather get your slant on it than that of Howard Newcombe, which has been adequately represented in recent years

Best regards,


James V. Neel, M.D.

JVN/mrk

